

TESTING THE GUARANTEE OF DEPOSITS ACTS

The following is from the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal:

"Governor C. N. Haskell of Oklahoma has appealed to Governor Shallenberger of Nebraska and the governor of Kansas to join interests in testing the guaranty of deposits acts of the three states named. He asks for a conference between the governors for the purpose of mutual co-operation in an appeal case. The Nebraska compulsory guaranty of deposits was declared unconstitutional by the circuit court of the United States. The Kansas law, a voluntary guaranty, has also been knocked out, but the Oklahoma law, the first one passed with a compulsory provision, was upheld by the state supreme court and is now in the United States court on appeal. The following telegram was received yesterday by Governor Shallenberger:

"Guthrie, Okla., Governor A. C. Shallenberger, Lincoln.—Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma have mutual interests in the banking law question. Our test case originated in state court. Our law fully upheld by our supreme court. Case now in United States supreme court on appeal from state supreme court. Will probably be reached about February or March. I believe all three states are mutually interested in the Oklahoma case and therefore have decided to invite conference and mutual co-operation between Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Kindly advise me if you think well of this conference and co-operation.

"C. N. HASKELL, Governor."

Governor Shallenberger replied as follows: "Hon. C. N. Haskell, Governor of Oklahoma, Guthrie, Okla.—Dear Governor: I have your telegram relative to the matter of a conference to be held by those officially interested in and empowered with the enforcement of the guaranty of deposits law in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

"In reply I will say that it seems to me that the suggestion is a good one and I will be very glad to assist in any way. The laws of the three states have all been attacked upon different points and the federal courts in Nebraska and Kansas have enjoined the laws of these respective states for different reasons, and, as you suggest, it seems to me highly to be desired that the lawyers having in charge the cases for the different states, and the executive departments having in charge the enforcement of the laws should mutually confer and agree as to a general policy.

"I will be very glad to hear from you further in the matter, as doubtless you have given it attention, and I would like to know if it is your idea to hold the conference in one of the respective states or to confer at the time of the meeting of governors, called for January 18, next, at Washington, D. C.

"Awaiting your further communication, I have the honor to remain, yours very respectfully,
"A. C. SHALLENBERGER, Governor."

COMMONER CIRCULATION

A. L. Duncan, Missoula, Mont.—I have just returned here from Washington, D. C., and have not time to get the subscriptions at this time but will place the paper in the hands of at least five voters if I have to make a donation for the whole number of subscriptions, but if I talk to them and they pay the subscription price they will appreciate the paper more and will read it more attentively. I am in thorough accord with the views expressed. I have worked for the paper all along this year and years before but have not sent in the subscriptions but relied on what I could do by telling the people who are democrats that they should take and the republicans that they should read both sides of the questions and then decide for themselves but that unless they read both sides of the question before the people they can not act intelligently nor vote intelligently.

J. S. Silvey, Kansas City, Kan.—I have been thinking and asking myself what better could I give to some of my good democratic friends who have helped to make life happy than to send to them the 1910 subscription for The Commoner as a Christmas present, not an expensive one from a money standpoint but as rich a one as I could send them from the standpoint of the highest class democracy. Therefore, I am sending you a draft for \$6 and attach hereto the list of the ten for whom I am subscribing for 1910. You will note that I put my own name in, but my subscription does not expire until some time in January and I want my new subscription to begin then. I hope that the

big hearted friends of The Commoner from all parts of the country will remember to do a splendid work for democracy and good government generally by sending in club lists so as to swell the circulation and thereby the increase of the best publication of any kind that comes to my home each month.

A. Burch, Sturgis, S. D.—As I am deeply interested in the success of democracy, and as you request a line from me, I will say that I fully agree with The Commoner's democratic principles, but as the liquor question is being agitated hotly, and The Commoner is taking sides in it also, and in which I and most of my friends differ with The Commoner, I can not comply with your favor. I believe the democracy is in need of the utmost and exclusive attention of The Commoner.

C. A. Taylor, Douglas, Ariz.—Please send The Commoner to the enclosed twenty-five names at 60 cents each for which I enclose draft. I have inserted in the evening paper here, the following notice: "C. A. Taylor is receiving subscriptions to The Commoner. His object is merely to get the articles on the tariff and other subjects generally disseminated in this section and he receives no commission. The rate he charges is the lowest obtainable, 60 cents per year. Those desiring to read The Commoner may hand in their subscriptions to Mr. Taylor and they will be promptly forwarded to The Commoner office." I will forward other subscriptions as rapidly as they come in. I wish you success.

M. Parsons, Clarksburg, W. Va.—I send you money order to cover subscriptions to The Commoner one year each to the enclosed five names. I am paying for these and am glad to help send the good news to others. I will send you more.

J. H. Martin, Darlington, Wis.—I enclose you list of eight subscribers and money order to pay for the same. As opportunity affords I will endeavor to secure more new subscribers. I assure you that I am in the fullest sympathy with Mr. Bryan and the reforms he so ably advocates and hold myself in readiness at all times to aid the promulgation of the same to the extent of all the power that is within me by every effort and all the influence that I can exercise and there is where I have stood for the past twelve years. Of course, I realize I am greatly handicapped, being a poor man and a laborer. The opposition being of men of wealth and time to devote to political affairs, but this is what we have to meet and overcome and that is what we do in my little balliwick. It is an uneven contest but I tell you brother I believe we will win in the end.

W. H. Mann, Toledo, O.—Enclosed you will find draft for \$8.40 to pay for fourteen subscriptions to The Commoner. I do not intend to stop now. I think The Commoner is a reliable, upright, unbiased newspaper, and I want to help increase its circulation.

T. W. Sutherland, Kansas City, Kan.—You will please find enclosed check for \$3.00 in payment for five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. These subscriptions were secured by my nine year old son, Everette W. Sutherland, who is a thorough democrat.

GETTING READY FOR RED FIRE?

In a Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald Walter Wellman says: "One of the curious phases of the Roosevelt gossip, speculation and expectation is the request which Ambassador Reid has made that he be permitted to remain at London till the former president visits that city on his way home from Africa. It is understood that President Taft will good-humoredly grant Mr. Reid's request."

Can it be possible that Mr. Reid wants to be on hand so as to see that the "red fire" is properly displayed? There are multiplying signs that the Taft forces are somewhat alarmed at the present threatened Roosevelt invasion. For instance, Mr. Wellman says:

"It is more or less an open secret in administration circles that President Taft's political program is well defined, comprehensive. It has to do with the present and the future. It is arranged with particular care to prevent the threatened invasion from Africa. The friends of the president say he is entitled to a second term and that then they have no objection to Mr. Roosevelt coming in again. They even go so far as to say there is a tacit understanding to this effect. But this the Roosevelt partisans deny. Hence the fear of the administration people that Mr. Roosevelt will not be content to wait until 1916 for his triumphal return to the White House. Eight years is an age to a man accustomed to having things done in a hurry."

MR. BRYAN IN SOUTH AMERICA

Following is a United Press dispatch: Kingston, Jamaica, January 1.—William Jennings Bryan, who is touring the West Indies preparatory to a trip to South America, today gave to the United Press a New Year's interview, in which he spoke hopefully of the outcome of the struggle now going on in Nicaragua and of the general Central American situation.

Asked whether he thought Secretary Knox had gone too far in taking a hand in Nicaragua's struggle and whether the United States is manifesting a new form of imperialism in her attitude toward Nicaragua, Mr. Bryan said he had not kept himself sufficiently informed of the latest developments to answer intelligently. He said he preferred to believe that the United States was following the right course.

"I don't care to discuss politics," Mr. Bryan said. "For the next few months I intend to study politics and leave the actual discussion to others. I am as deeply interested as ever and intend to make a careful study of political conditions in every country I visit. I see as good a chance for Nicaragua to become a peaceful country as there was for Cuba at the time of her revolution. America made Cuba a republic and she has progressed wonderfully. Those taking a superficial view of Nicaraguan affairs may conclude that the civil war raging there is proof of the republic's inability to govern herself. Nothing could be further from the truth, as civil wars are sometimes the strongest evidence of a full capacity for self government, indicating a refusal longer to endure conditions that militate against the highest development. We should remember that America had a terrible civil war, but there are none who will charge us with incapacity in self government."

Mr. Bryan will write a number of letters concerning his observations during his travels and these will be printed in The Commoner.

KIND WORDS

The following letter with editorial enclosed is self explanatory:

Sheldon, Iowa, December 27, 1909.—Charles W. Bryan, Publisher The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: The enclosed clipping is from the Sioux City (Iowa) Tribune, a republican paper. Honest expressions like these are so rare, from a republican source, as to be refreshing if not novel. Thinking you might not have seen this editorial, I take pleasure in sending it.

Yours truly, G. G. BROCK.

BRYAN ILL

The announcement that Mr. Bryan is in poor health will gather around him personally the sympathy of the whole American people.

He is known to have an unusually vigorous constitution and to have guarded against the waste of his vitality through the intemperances and indulgences peculiar to public men.

Yet, he has been a hard worker, giving out his strength to the utmost through all these twenty years of his strenuous life. Whatever political opponents may urge against his doctrines and his ambitions he has given himself devotedly to the public and the public is better for what he has said and done. All fair-minded people recognize that much of the progressive spirit that is now forcing its influence into the public affairs has come through the bold energy and indomitable courage of Mr. Bryan. It is true, and the republicans as well as the democrats of the country frankly admit, that Bryan has forced many progressive measures into law through the republican party, that has been compelled to do what it would not have done without him.

There is no just reason, from anything he has ever advocated or done, for bitterness of feeling toward him. His hand that has been ever ready with its friendly grip to high and low alike, has had with it a warm heart for the people whose cause he has defended in his own way. His personality and his private life have been so clean that no word of personal censure has ever been uttered against him. His strength as an organizer of men has been tempered with a gentleness of manner and an unruffled sweetness of disposition that has won him the heart of the people.

May his present illness be only temporary, and may he live long to exert his wholesome influence upon American politics and government.

Mr. Bryan was delayed four days in Florida on account of a severe cold, but he has fully recovered and is now on his way to South America.